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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-397 NO. | CONFIDENTIAL | HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

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INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

CENTRAL
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
MAY 7 - 1968

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: May 4, 1968

SUBJECT : ~~Weekly~~ Internal Security Report: April 26 - May 2, 1968

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE OCT 1994
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. There was no fundamental change in the internal security situation during the week. The covert security forces are still being held somewhat in check and are using more discretion in the operations they are conducting, and for the most part the insurgents are continuing to lie low and use the resulting calm to regroup and reorganize.

2. That the situation still contained some volatile overtones, however, was demonstrated over the May Day holiday period. While there were no major demonstrations or incidents, there were 5 amateurish fire bombings attempted in 48 hours. Targets were IRCA telegraph office, the exhibition halls of the Industrial Park, which is preparing for an industrial fair, and a private house. It is still not known who was behind the acts or for what motive.

3. Another incident which received considerable attention and which suggests that the battle continues, albeit underground, was the abduction April 26 of 2 FAR members who were being transported under police custody to a prison farm. They have not been heard from since [redacted] The Lobos, a bandit gang on the south coast, also remained active killing at least 3 more in Nueva Concepcion, and a Justice of the Peace was assassinated by unknown hands in Esquipulas, Department of Chiquimula.

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Drafted by: POL:WNewlin:cam:5/3/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM:MVKrebs POL:JBigipton (draft)

Clearances: POL-1:JWilson (in draft)

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